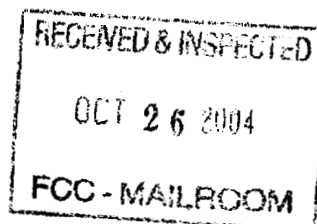


United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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October 12, 2004



Docket 04-261

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-204B
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Commissioners:

We write to encourage you to curb the amount of violence on television and limit children's exposure to violent content on television. Violence on television is a part of a larger media violence problem, which includes violent video games and movies. Unfortunately, some of the long-term implications of exposing young people to violence on television have yet to be studied extensively. For this reason, we have cosponsored the Children and Media Research Advancement Act in the Senate, which aims to synthesize existing research and study the impact of media violence on early childhood development.

What we know today about the amount of violence on television and its harmful impact on children is staggering. The National Television Violence Study found that nearly two out of every three television programs contained some violence. Fewer than five percent of these programs featured an anti-violence theme. Alarming, violence was found to be more prevalent in children's programming than in other types of programming. The study estimated that the average child who watches two hours of cartoons a day sees nearly 10,000 violent incidents each year. It also appears that the amount of violence on television is rising.

When children are exposed to violence through the media, it hurts their development and negatively affects their behavior. The National Institute of Mental Health and the American Psychological Association both concluded that violence on television leads to increased acceptance of aggressive attitudes and increased aggressive behavior by children and teenagers. The Surgeon General found that media violence increases children's physically and verbally aggressive behavior in the short term. Violence on television may also have serious implications in the long-term, leading to violent behavior among teens and young adults who have been exposed to a lifetime of violent content through the media. Once more research is completed, we

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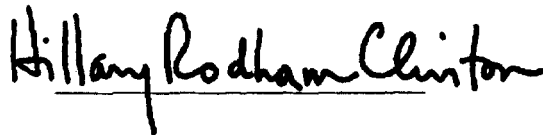
will likely find that exposing infants and toddlers to violence on television stunts their early childhood development.

We recognize that some of the responsibility for these problems lies with media organizations, producers of violent programs, and parents who do not restrict their children's access to violent programs. But we believe this is an area where the government can step in and shoulder some of the responsibility. This is why we are writing today. We encourage you to consider promulgating regulations to limit the amount of violence on television and prevent young people from viewing violent content. We thank you for your consideration of this important issue, and look forward to working with you on this issue in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dick Durbin", written over a horizontal line.

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hillary Rodham Clinton", written over a horizontal line.

Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senator